



ROWLEY

Essex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Rowley was founded in 1639 by the Reverend Ezekiel Rogers and a band of 20 families from Rowley, Yorkshire, England. The group sailed on the ship "John of London" bringing with them the first printing press to be used in America, the famous "Daye Press" which was to be set up in Cambridge. The land area of Rowley originally included what is now Boxford, Bradford, Georgetown, Groveland, and a part of Middleton. The town has a varied terrain, and is situated between two rivers, the Muddy Creek on the north and the Rowley River to the south. With a section of Plum Island bordering the Atlantic, the main land mass fronts Plum Island Sound with an extensive salt marsh area that eventually gives way to rolling uplands. Heavily forested, there are several working farms with numerous single-family house lots and a few apartments and condominium complexes. Bradstreet Farm, owned by the Jewett family since the 1600's is the nation's second oldest working farm to be continuously owned and occupied by the same family.

Rowley is home to the nation's oldest stone arch bridge and the "Turning Place" (now the Rowley Common) where in 1775 a battalion of Benedict Arnold's musket men encamped enroute to Quebec. The Revolutionary War cannon, "Old Nancy", is one of the town's most prized possessions. The cannon was taken by Rowley soldiers from the British ship "Nancy", which was captured off Gloucester.

In 1643, the first fulling (wool) mill in the colonies was established in Rowley, which later proved to be a contributing factor to the War of Independence as the mill was perceived as a threat to England's dominance in supplying wool to the colonies. Rowley's only other major industry was the Foster Shoe Company that began operations in 1850.

Today, Rowley is in a transition from its historical farming roots to that of a residential community. The town maintains its historical charm, however, and may be the quintessential New England hometown with its 350th anniversary commemorative bandstand sited on the town common green, numerous stately, colonial era homes lining Main Street, and several tall white steeple churches standing nearby.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Boxford and Georgetown on the west, Newbury on the north, Ipswich on the south, and the Plum Island River on the east. Rowley is about 10 miles southeast of Haverhill, 14 miles north of Salem, 28 miles north of Boston, and 250 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 20.59 sq. miles

Land Area: 18.72 sq. miles

Population: 4,452

Density: 238 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Haverhill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....72.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.4"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Georgetown, Ipswich, Newburyport East

Regional Planning Agency

Merrimack Valley Region

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 948-2705

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1639

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number	%
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Total Registered 2,818

Democrats 394 14.0 % Republicans 463 16.4 % Other parties 0 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 1,961 69.6 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Rowley town, Essex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	5,500	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	5,500	100.0
Male.....	2,720	49.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	47	0.9
Female.....	2,780	50.5	Mexican.....	17	0.3
Under 5 years.....	393	7.1	Puerto Rican.....	9	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	460	8.4	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	460	8.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	21	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	339	6.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	5,453	99.1
20 to 24 years.....	209	3.8	White alone.....	5,380	97.8
25 to 34 years.....	573	10.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,217	22.1	Total population.....	5,500	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	917	16.7	In households.....	5,427	98.7
55 to 59 years.....	263	4.8	Householder.....	1,958	35.6
60 to 64 years.....	154	2.8	Spouse.....	1,262	22.9
65 to 74 years.....	269	4.9	Child.....	1,861	33.8
75 to 84 years.....	157	2.9	Own child under 18 years.....	1,471	26.7
85 years and over.....	89	1.6	Other relatives.....	146	2.7
Median age (years).....	37.7	(X)	Under 18 years.....	41	0.7
18 years and over.....	3,961	72.0	Nonrelatives.....	200	3.6
Male.....	1,899	34.5	Unmarried partner.....	86	1.6
Female.....	2,062	37.5	In group quarters.....	73	1.3
21 years and over.....	3,802	69.1	Institutionalized population.....	72	1.3
62 years and over.....	611	11.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	1	-
65 years and over.....	515	9.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	198	3.6	Total households.....	1,958	100.0
Female.....	317	5.8	Family households (families).....	1,468	75.0
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	764	39.0
One race.....	5,478	99.6	Married-couple family.....	1,262	64.5
White.....	5,411	98.4	With own children under 18 years.....	647	33.0
Black or African American.....	13	0.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	151	7.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	14	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	84	4.3
Asian.....	25	0.5	Nonfamily households.....	490	25.0
Asian Indian.....	5	0.1	Householder living alone.....	393	20.1
Chinese.....	8	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	143	7.3
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	792	40.4
Japanese.....	4	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	352	18.0
Korean.....	1	-	Average household size.....	2.77	(X)
Vietnamese.....	2	-	Average family size.....	3.23	(X)
Other Asian ¹	4	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	2,004	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,958	97.7
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	46	2.3
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	19	0.9
Some other race.....	15	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.1	(X)
Two or more races.....	22	0.4	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.4	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	1,958	100.0
White.....	5,430	98.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,507	77.0
Black or African American.....	21	0.4	Renter-occupied housing units.....	451	23.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	25	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.99	(X)
Asian.....	28	0.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.03	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-			
Some other race.....	21	0.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 54

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Rowley is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 1, State Route 1A, and State Route 133, which forms an interchange with Interstate Route 95 just over the border in Georgetown.

Rail

There is no freight or passenger rail transportation in Rowley, but the network of intermodal facilities serving eastern Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Rowley is a member of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) but does not receive services. The Rowley Council on Aging provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled.

Other

The Newburyport-Plum Island Airport is a privately owned public use facility located 1 mi. SE of town. It has a 2,520'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Rowley Public Library](#)

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#) **MUSEUMS**
(American Association of Museums)

Rowley Historical Society
233 Main Street
(978) 948-7483

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Sea View Convalescent & Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.